

Amendments to the Claims

1. (amended) A method of delivering and releasing active material comprising the steps of:

- a) providing hydrogel microbeads each comprising [entraining] a plurality of active material droplets entrained within a hydrophilic matrix [inside a hydrogel microbead], said microbeads having an average diameter between about 1 μ m to about 1000 μ m;
- b) creating a suspension of [suspending] a plurality of said microbeads [in a solution];
- c) delivering said [solution] suspension comprising said microbeads onto [a substrate] an intended environment; and
- d) allowing said microbeads to dehydrate.

4. (amended) The method according to claim 2 wherein said step of exposing said microbeads to humidity is performed by wetting the surfaces of said microbeads with [a solution] water.

[11. (canceled) The method according to claim 1 wherein said microbead has an average diameter between about 1 μ m to about 1000 μ m.]